



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

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February 7, 2008

NEWS RELEASE

United States Attorney Patrick L. Meehan today announced the filing of an Information¹ against Tina D. Howard, charging her with three counts of theft of government money, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 641. According to the charges, Howard knowingly converted to her own use approximately \$30,017.60 in Social Security benefit payments, which were intended for her deceased grandmother, Syrena Howard, and which Howard knew she was not entitled to receive. According to the charges, Howard also knowingly submitted false statements regarding her income and resources in connection with her applications for federally funded welfare benefits, such as food stamp, cash assistance, and medical assistance. As a result of Howard's false statements, she improperly received approximately \$35,905 in food stamp and cash assistance benefits that were funded by the United States Department of Agriculture, and approximately \$33,874.60 in medical assistance benefits that were funded by the United States Department of Health & Human Services, which Howard knew she was not entitled to receive. In total, Howard defrauded the federal government out of approximately \$99,797.20.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR DATE OF BIRTH
Tina D. Howard	Philadelphia, PA	40

If convicted the defendant faces a maximum possible sentence of thirty years imprisonment, three years of supervised release, a \$750,000 fine, and a \$300 special assessment.

The case was investigated by the Offices of the Inspector General from the Social Security Administration and the United States Department of Agriculture, and is being prosecuted by Special Assistant United States Attorney Robert W. Flynn.

¹An Indictment or Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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